

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in the application. Claims 1-10 and 16 are allowed. Claims 11 and 13 were rejected and remaining claims, 12, 14, and 15 were objected to. Accordingly, claims 1-16 remain active in the application. In view of the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C § 102

Claims 11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kajigaya, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,426,616, ("Kajigaya"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and submits that Kajigaya fails to disclose all claimed elements of any rejected claim.

Claim 11 recites "selecting one reference voltage out of the first and second reference voltages to input to the high voltage generator." According to the Examiner, Kajigaya's standard voltage for normal operation VR1 and standard voltage for performing and aging test VR2 disclose the recited first and second reference voltages. The Examiner alleges that Kajigaya's Booster Circuit 26 discloses the recited high voltage generator. The Examiner further alleges that Kajigaya's Selection Circuit 23 selects between VR1 and VR2, where the selected standard voltage is subsequently inputted to Booster Circuit 26 via a feedback path. Kajigaya, however, does not disclose a feedback path, or any other path that enables Booster Circuit 26 to receive VR1 as an input. Kajigaya, col. 4, ll. 35-52; col. 5, ll. 19-30. Kajigaya, therefore, does not anticipate claim 11, or its corresponding dependent claims.

Claim 11 further recites "selecting one reference voltage ... in response to a reference voltage selection signal supplied to the device." The Examiner alleges that Kajigaya's Selection Circuit 23 selects the disclosed reference voltage. Selection Circuit 23, however, selects a standard voltage by determining which standard voltage is larger between VR1 and VR2, not in response to a reference voltage selection signal. Kajigaya, col. 4, ll. 45-48. Since, Kajigaya does not disclose selecting a reference voltage in response to a reference voltage selection signal, Kajigaya does not anticipate claim 11, or its corresponding dependent claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 12, 14, and 15 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In view of the remarks above regarding the

patentability of the claims from which claims 12, 14, and 15 depend, Applicant has elected not to rewrite claims 12, 14, and 15 at this time.

Applicant also acknowledges the indication of patentable subject matter in claims 1-10 and 16.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-16 of the application as amended is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

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Respectfully submitted,

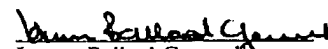
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office via facsimile number 1-703-872-9306, on October 25, 2004.

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